

Malden Historic District
(4205 Malden Drive)
Malden
Kanawha County
West Virginia

HABS No. WV-210-27

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Architectural and Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20243

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

MALDEN HISTORIC DISTRICT, 4205 Malden Drive HABS No. WV-210-27

Location: 4205 Malden Drive, Malden, Kanawha County, West Virginia
(Within the boundaries of the Malden Historic District)

Present Owner: The Kanawha Valley Historical and Preservation Society, c/o
Eugene Harper, 703 Bona Vista Place, Charleston, West
Virginia

Present Use: Abandoned

Significance: This house, now a ruin, is noteworthy for its association
with Malden blacks. Built prior to 1880, the house was
later lived in by the half-sister of Booker T. Washington,
who visited there from time to time. The size and quality
of the dwelling (in its original condition) reflected the
position of esteem held by Washington's relatives. One of
the few consequential houses occupied by blacks in
late-19th-century Malden, this building remains as a
reminder of the importance of blacks in Malden, a fact
underscored by the African Zion Baptist Church nearby.
(Malden's present population is almost entirely white.) In
spite of its condition, this half-collapsed building is
rated as making a major contribution to the Malden Historic
District because of its past associations.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Before 1880.
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: John Q. Dickinson bought the
property in April 1872 in satisfaction of a debt owed him by
William H. Truslow, as recorded in Deed Book 28 at page 115 in
the Kanawha County Courthouse.

However, in May 1880, William H. Truslow conveyed to Benjamin
Johnson and John Washington (Booker T. Washington's brother) the
said house and lot. In February 1889, John conveyed his share
to his sister Amanda for \$1.00 as recorded in Deed Book 50 at
page 66. The house has been abandoned for years and was
purchased by the Kanawha Valley Historical and Preservation
Society in 1979.

4. Alterations and additions:

The original structure was similar to several other houses in the area in that it had a two-story brick main block with three windows on the upper level and two on the lower flanking a central doorway. A wooden porch was added to the front of the house and a one-story addition to the back of the house, but no date can be given for either alteration. The house is presently a ruin. The roof is gone, walls have caved in, and trees grow within the house itself.

- B. The house belonged to Amanda Johnson, half-sister of Booker T. Washington, the noted Negro educator, who lived in Malden during his childhood, but never in this house, and later came back from Tuskegee, Alabama, for occasional visits with Amanda.

It has been said that Washington built this house for Amanda, but this is not confirmed by the records of deed transactions in the Kanawha County Courthouse.

Prepared by Donna Sue White
Historian
Historic American Buildings
Survey Team
June 1979

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The house was originally a two-story three-bayed brick structure with a wooden rear ell.
2. Condition of fabric: Ruinous.

B. Description of exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: This house is approximately 34'-9" in width and 51'-6" in depth. The building consist of a two-story brick front block to which a one-story wooden rear addition has been attached, forming a plan which is ell-shaped overall.
2. Foundations: For the front block, foundations are not visible. For the rear block, foundations consist of concrete block piers at present.

3. Wall construction, finish and color: Walls of the front block consist of a reddish-orange brick set in a common bond pattern using light gray mortar. The rear wing is of wooden frame construction, having been surfaced with clapboard siding. The rear wing was apparently painted white at one time, as was the trim around windows and doors on the front block. Although the condition of the roof is ruinous, it appears that cornices around the roof of the front block might have been painted dark green.
4. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.: The only remaining porch is the front porch, a concrete-floored one-story attachment of three bays covered by a shed roof supported by square wooden posts.
5. Chimneys: Two end chimneys occur in the front block, neither of which is expressed on the exterior walls. A single internal chimney occurs in the center of the rear wing.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: On the portion of the front block which has not collapsed, there is one front doorway, atop which is a transom. There appear to have been three doors on the rear wing. Only the openings for doors exist, not the doors themselves.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Although no sashes remain, frames in the front block indicate that windows were double-hung wooden sash units.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: A low-pitch gabled roof appears to have been the type of roof covering the front block. A gabled roof of steeper pitch also appears to have covered the rear wing.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: The only remaining eaves occur on the rear wing, overhangs apparently occurring at all walls. Soffits are enclosed, and fascias are simple bands of rectilinear wooden shapes. The portion of the front roof which still exists offers no clear evidence concerning eave conditions, though remaining painted members near the north wall suggest that overhangs might not have occurred at the gable ends. Protruding rafter ends on the west and east walls indicate that there were roof overhangs there.

- C. Site: The building faces east onto Malden Drive, being located very close to the street.

Prepared by James Murray Howard
Project Supervisor
Historic American Buildings Survey
August 1979

PART III SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Old Views: The Kanawha Valley Historical and Preservation Society, present owners of the house.

Bibliography:

Deed Book, Kanawha County Courthouse Records.

Deed Book 28 at page 115

Deed Book 50 at page 66

"The Town I Always Call Home," Charleston Daily Mail, April 4, 1973

Dominion Post, Morgantown, West Virginia, May 26, 1976.

"History Decays in Malden," The Charleston Gazette, November 25, 1974.

Interviews:

Mrs. Minnie Cooper, 101 Wayne Drive, Malden, West Virginia.
Dr. A. Eugene Harper, Professor of History, University of Charleston, Charleston, West Virginia, and President of the Kanawha Valley Historical and Preservation Society.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) with funding from the West Virginia Department of Culture and History. The recording was completed under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, Principal Architect of HABS, in the HABS field office in Charleston, West Virginia. Recording was carried out during the summer of 1979 by James Murray Howard (University of Illinois), Project Supervisor; Donna White, Project Historian; and Student Architects James Barrett Garrison (Carnegie-Mellon University) and Keith Edward Soto (University of Florida). The photographs were taken by Walter Smalling, Jr., Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service Photographer.